

Drug Early Warning System

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Working Together to Identify Emerging Drug Trends in Maryland

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Heroin and Ecstasy Reported As Emerging Drugs by Drug Scan Reporters in About Half of Maryland's Counties

Three-quarters (18 of 24) of Maryland's jurisdictions reported one or more emerging drugs during the 1999 Drug Scan. An emerging drug is a drug that has recently (in the past six to 12 months) been perceived as a problem and is strongly connected to a specific subculture. The drug is also thought to be spreading into a broader population. The two most often mentioned emerging drugs were heroin (14 counties) and ecstasy (10 counties). Drug Scan interviews were completed with 98 Drug Scan contacts in the summer of 1999. The Maryland Drug Scan is a statewide, county-level drug use monitoring project that is designed to obtain perceptions of current local drug trends from substance abuse professionals such as doctors, police officials, educators, and drug treatment providers. The table below shows the emerging drugs identified by Drug Scan contacts in four or more counties.

Emerging Drugs in Maryland by County, 1999

	Heroin	Ecstasy	LSD	Ketamine	Ritalin
Allegany	X	X			
Anne Arundel	X	X			
Baltimore	X	X	X	X	
Baltimore City					
Calvert	X				
Caroline					
Carroll		X			X
Cecil	X				
Charles	X	X	X		
Dorchester					
Frederick	X	X	X	X	
Garrett	X	X	X		
Harford					
Howard					
Kent					
Montgomery	X	X		X	
Prince George's					X
Queen Anne's					
Somerset	X				
St. Mary's		X	X	X	
Talbot	X				X
Washington	X				X
Wicomico	X				
Worcester	X	X	X	X	
No. of Counties	14	10	6	5	4

NOTES: DEWS contacts in each county may have mentioned other emerging drugs not listed in this table. For example, contacts in Harford county perceived benzodiazepines as an emerging drug in their area. The 2000 Drug Scan will be conducted during May and June of this year. If you have information to share or comments about this table, please call the DEWS toll-free tipline, 1-877-234-DEWS.

SOURCE: Drug Early Warning System (DEWS), Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland at College Park. A copy of the 1999 Drug Scan report can be requested by calling the DEWS toll-free tipline (1-877-234-DEWS).

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